

Decision No. 50967

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Commission investigation into the safety, maintenance, operation, use, and protection of crossings of public highways and the line of SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY in ARBUCKLE, COLUSA COUNTY.

Case No. 5575

- L. H. Gulick, for Commission staff.
- R. S. Myers, for Southern Pacific Company.
- D. W. Klar, Richard Stevenson, Daniel E. Weyand and Donald W. Littlejohn, for the County of Colusa.
- Stanley Atran, for the Arbuckle Fire Department and the Lions Club, interested parties.

O P I N I O N

This Commission upon its own motion ordered an investigation into the safety, maintenance, operation, use and protection of Hillgate Road, Crossing No. AE-113.1, Eddy Street, Crossing No. AE-113.3, Hall Street, Crossing No. AE-113.5, and Gale Avenue, Crossing No. AE-113.7 each being a crossing at grade of a public highway and the main line of Southern Pacific Company, in Arbuckle, Colusa County, California, for the following purposes:

1. To determine whether or not public safety requires the abolishment of one or more of said crossings.
2. To determine whether or not public safety requires the relocation, alteration or widening of one or more of said crossings, or requires the installation and maintenance of additional protective devices thereat.
3. To prescribe the terms upon which any such closing, relocation, alteration, widening, installation, or maintenance shall be done; and to apportion the costs thereof between the Southern Pacific Company and the County of Colusa.
4. To enter any other orders that may be appropriate in the lawful exercise of the Commission's jurisdiction.

This order of investigation was filed September 28, 1954 and contained the further order that public hearing be held thereon at a time and place to be thereafter designated.

December 9, 1954 at 9:30 a.m. in the Recreation Room, Firehouse, Arbuckle, California, was designated for such hearing. Notice was duly given to Southern Pacific Company, the Board of Supervisors of Colusa County, the Division of Highways of the State of California and to the Fire Chief, Arbuckle, California.

Public hearing was held in Arbuckle, December 9, 1954 before Examiner John Rowe at which time oral and documentary evidence was adduced and the matter duly submitted for decision.

As to the Hillgate Road Crossing, AE-113.1, the evidence is uncontradicted and the Commission finds that there is a substantial use by the public of this crossing including the use by school buses. The approaches to said crossing are somewhat obscured and when there is a fog, which happens quite often, this highway is dangerous and Standard No. 8 flashing light signals should be installed and the other work done as set forth in the following order.

The evidence is convincing and the Commission finds that there is very little public need for the Eddy Street Crossing, AE-113.3, and its continued use should be ordered stopped. During the last twenty-six years three persons have been killed and two injured at this crossing while two have been killed at the Hillgate Crossing.

No deaths or injuries have resulted at the Hall Street Crossing, AE-113.5, or at the Gale Avenue Crossing, AE-113.7. The Gale Avenue Crossing is not used to a substantial extent by the public but according to the testimony of the Arbuckle Fire Chief its continuance is important and needed for adequate fire protection of the area east of the tracks. The Hall Street Crossing should be

further protected by the installation of "Stop When Swinging," multiple track and reflectorized crossing signs.

O R D E R

Investigation on the Commission's own motion having been instituted, public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been duly submitted and the Commission now being fully advised,

IT IS ORDERED:

(1) That the grade crossing over the Southern Pacific Company's tracks of its main line at Eddy Street in Arbuckle, Colusa County designated on Southern Pacific Company's records as Crossing No. AE-113.3 be, and it hereby is, ordered closed by constructing within sixty days after the effective date of this order proper barriers in such manner as effectively to prevent the use thereof by vehicular traffic at the sole cost of Southern Pacific Company.

(2) That the grade crossing over said main line and over the one spur track at Hillgate Road in Arbuckle, Colusa County designated on said company's records as Crossing No. AE-113.1 be, and it hereby is, ordered widened to a minimum of twenty-four feet including the approaches, and to be constructed equal or superior to the type shown as Standard No. 2 in General Order No. 72 and to be protected by two Standard No. 8 flashing light signals of the type shown in General Order No. 75-B equipped with reflectorized "STOP ON RED SIGNAL" signs.

(3) That the grade crossing over said main line and over the three side tracks at Hall Street in Arbuckle, Colusa County designated on said company's records as Crossing No. AE-113.5 be, and it hereby is, ordered to be further protected by the installation of two reflectorized "STOP WHEN SWINGING" signs on the existing No. 3 wigwag (G.O. No. 75-B) the reflectorization of the No. 1 crossing sign (G.O. No. 75-B) easterly of the easterly side track, the :

installation of two reflectorized No. 1 crossing signs at the westerly side track and the installation of "4 TRACKS" signs on the easterly and westerly crossing signs.

(4) That the grade crossing over said main line at Gale Avenue in Arbuckle, Colusa County designated on said Company's records as AE-113.7 be, and it hereby is, ordered to be further protected by the installation of two reflectorized Standard No. 1-A signs of the type shown in General Order No. 75-B or the reflectorization of the existing No. 1 crossing signs by the addition of reflex-reflecting material.

(5) That the County of Colusa shall bear the entire construction cost of widening the approaches to Hillgate Road Crossing as provided in ordering paragraph (2) hereof, all of said construction to be completed within ninety days after the effective date of this order and all maintenance cost outside of lines two feet outside of the rails shall be borne by said County and Southern Pacific Company shall bear maintenance costs between said lines.

(6) That the acquisition and installation of said flashing light signals at Hillgate Road required by ordering paragraph (2) shall be effected by Southern Pacific Company within ninety days after the effective date of this order and the expense thereof shall be borne seventy-five per cent by Southern Pacific Company and twenty-five per cent by the County of Colusa.

(7) That the additional protective devices required by ordering paragraphs (3) and (4) shall be done at the entire expense of Southern Pacific Company.

(8) That the cost of maintaining said flashing light signals and the other protective devices to be installed as required by ordering paragraphs (2) (3) and (4) hereof shall be borne by Southern Pacific Company.

(9) That within thirty days after the acquisition and construction required by ordering paragraphs (1) (2) (3) and (4) have been completed Southern Pacific Company shall give the Commission written notice of compliance with the terms of this order.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of JANUARY, 1955.

John E. Mitchell
 President

Justus J. Casner

Paul Lutz

Montgomery Hooper

Commissioners